

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. We are not going to let Trudi get off that easy because she is going to have to listen to some 1-minute speeches.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the farm bill conference report. As Illinois farmers look forward to spring planting season, this bill provides them with a stronger crop insurance program and gives them a choice of commodity programs that work best for their farm.

It takes important steps to end direct payments, streamline conservation programs, close food stamp loopholes, and saves \$24 billion over the next decade.

However, one issue the bill does not address is Country of Origin Labeling, or COOL. Current COOL regulations could potentially put American livestock producers in violation of our trade obligations and could put the U.S. meat under retaliatory tariffs from Canada and Mexico.

The WTO announced just last week that they will be holding hearings on this issue. I have been told by the leadership of the House, who had this provision in the House part of the bill, that the bill would be filed, hearings will be conducted, and we will move legislation to address this concern.

I want to thank Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON for all the hard work that the Ag Committee has done to provide Illinois farmers certainty.

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MARY PAKOS' UNEMPLOYMENT

(Ms. DUCKWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, Mary Pakos of Villa Park, Illinois, is one of my neighbors; and she needs Congress to extend unemployment insurance now. Mary has 16 years of experience in human resources, with seven of those as a manager. Yet she has been unemployed now for 3 years, but it is not for the lack of trying. She has sent out more than 500 resumes and has gone through interview after interview after interview with no success.

She worries about losing her house and how she will support herself in retirement. You see, she recently turned 60, and she knows how tough it can be to find work at her age.

But that doesn't stop Mary from looking for jobs for hours every day. It does not stop her from spending hours every week volunteering at her local church in Elmhurst, Illinois, because she cares so much about her community. Mary is not giving up, and we shouldn't give up on her either.

Many Americans like her want to find work and simply can't. Punishing them by taking away unemployment benefits is a terrible mistake. Let's put our partisanship aside and extend un-

employment insurance now for our families and our businesses.

THE FARM BILL

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today the House passed a new 5-year farm bill reauthorization with bipartisan support. The Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act will provide food security for our Nation's citizens, ensuring that Americans have access to affordable, high-quality, and safe food.

For my State of Pennsylvania and many others, the farm bill is actually a jobs bill. In Pennsylvania, we have approximately 62,000 farms, and agriculture supports hundreds of thousands of jobs. One in seven Pennsylvanians owes their job directly or indirectly to agriculture.

The dairy sector is our largest single contributor, with about 7,100 farms as of last year. Pennsylvania ranks fifth in overall dairy production among States, but Pennsylvania agriculture is very diverse. We have beef and cattle, mushrooms, corn, poultry, and so much more. Our forest products and timber industry is also critical in Pennsylvania and provides jobs and needed forest management.

This farm bill is critical in providing support and certainty to our farmers and rural communities in each of these areas. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee and as a supporter of agriculture in Pennsylvania, I was proud to support the passage of this important jobs bill.

HUNGER IS NOT AN OPTION

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, hunger is not an option. And although there were many elements of the farm bill that, over the years, I have supported enthusiastically as a Representative from Texas—and I thank all of those who produce food—it is a question of taking a stand. First, \$40 billion, then \$11 billion, then \$8 billion. It is not an option in terms of the closing off of the opportunity for food stamps.

For those who are working, as Maggie, a young lady in Austin, Texas, and the 48 million women who are living in poverty and the 22 million children living in poverty, I took a stand today, and I am proud of it—not because the work was not there for the farm bill, but we have got to protect those who need us most. Hunger is not an option.

I take this time as well to thank Trudi Terry, my dear friend, for her service to this Nation. She is professional and distinguished. And as we refer to each other on the floor, “the distinguished gentlelady from Texas,”

“the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts,” you are the distinguished gentlelady from Virginia, along with Irene. We thank you for sharing with us.

And I appreciate one thing: thank you for being our friend and my friend. God bless you and continue in prosperity and service. God bless you.

INACCESSIBLE PUBLIC LANDS

(Mr. DAINES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAINES. As a fifth generation Montanan and sportsman, I know the importance of protecting and preserving Montana's outdoor heritage. Hunting, fishing, and hiking on our public lands are important parts of many Montanans' way of life. It is something that my grandpa and dad passed on to me and something we are passing on to our kids.

But almost 2 million acres of public lands in Montana are inaccessible to the public. Three other States—Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico—have more than 500,000 acres of inaccessible land to the public, and that is simply unacceptable. I strongly believe we must ensure the public has access to the public lands we already have.

There is strong bipartisan agreement that the Land and Water Conservation Fund can play an important role in increasing access to these lands, and that is what the Making Public Lands Public Access Act will do. My bill seeks to increase Montanans' opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation and ensure that our public lands are truly public. I urge support for my bill.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM AND CORPORATE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it has been 4 long years since the Supreme Court's awful Citizens United decision; and, sadly, this Republican leadership has failed to take action to address the increasing influence of big corporations and big money in our elections and our political discourse.

The House has repeatedly voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act which, quite frankly, helps millions and millions of our fellow citizens get health care. We have voted to weaken financial regulations and environmental protections; and while I am pleased that most of this legislation has not become law, I find it troubling that we have not addressed an issue so fundamental to our democracy—the empowerment of everyday Americans over special interests.

I am proud to be the sponsor of two constitutional amendments, H.J. Res. 20, which empowers Congress and the